

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, SF
SUBJECT: BROEDERBOND HEAD CALLS FOR CHANGE

1. PROFESSOR GERRIT VILJOEN, RECTOR OF RAND AFRIKAANS UNIVERSITY AND REPUTEDLY HEAD OF THE BROEDERBOND, IN THE LAST WEEK HAS MADE TWO STRONG APPEALS FOR CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA'S RACIAL POLICIES.

2. APPEARING IN A SPECIAL TV DOCUMENTARY ON THE AFRIKANER WHICH WAS SHOWN ON SABC-TV ON JUNE 11, VILJOEN STRESSED THAT WHILE THE AFRIKANER WAS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN HIS IDENTITY, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT HE SHOULD ACCEPT THE NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN PRACTICES AFFECTING THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF OTHERS. VILJOEN SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR A REVIEW OF THE MIXED MARRIAGES AND IMMORALITY ACTS.

2. VILJOEN FOLLOWED UP HIS TV APPEARANCE WITH A SPEECH BEFORE THE AFRIKANER CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, AFRIKAANS TAAL EN KULTURVEREENIGING IN NATAL ON JUNE 14. VILJOEN TOLD HIS AFRIKANER AUDIENCE "PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT US THAT MANY OF OUR STATUTORILY ENTRENCHED SELF-PROTECTION MEASURES, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY CONCERN

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SELF BENEFITING DISCRIMINATION AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER NATIONAL GROUPS, EVENTUALLY CREATE MORE DANGERS AND PROBLEMS IN REALITY THAN SOLUTIONS." VILJOEN WENT ON TO WARN THAT "WHEN EXCESSIVE SELF-PROTECTION RESULTS IN THE WRONGING OF OTHERS OR IN THE HUMAN DIGNITY OF OTHER PEOPLE BEING IMPAIRED, IT BRINGS A HARVEST OF BITTERNESS AND DIVISION IN OUR INTERNAL

RELATIONS THAT CAN CREATE AN INTERNAL ENEMY WORSE THEN
THAT THREATENING FROM OUTSIDE."

4. IN THE FUTURE, VILJOEN SAID, SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD
FACE MAJOR AND RADICAL CHANGES AND WOULD HAVE TO
MAKE "RADICAL ADAPTATIONS TO OUR WAY OF LIFE AND
CONDUCT AS INDIVIDUALS." ON THE ROAD AHEAD, VILJOEN
CONCLUDED, AFRIKANERS WOULD HAVE TO LEARN TO ADAPT TO
A MUCH MORE DANGEROUS AND LESS PROTECTED EXISTENCE
AND SELF PRESERVATION THAN IN THE RECENT PAST.

5. COMMENT: IN THE PAST YEAR VILJOEN HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY
OUTSPOKEN IN PUBLIC ON THE NEED FOR CHANGE. HIS RECENT
REMARKS REPRESENT HIS STRONGEST WARNING TO DATE OF THE
CONSEQUENCES OF A FAILURE BY THE AFRIKANER TO MAKE MAJOR AND
"RADICAL" CHANGES. AS HEAD OF THE BROEDERBOND, VILJOEN'S REMARKS
CARRY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT
BECAUSE VILJOEN HAS SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR AN INVESTIGATION
INTO THE MIXED MARRIAGES AND IMMORALITY ACTS, THE ISSUE WILL,
IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BE PRESENTED TO BROEDERBOND BRANCHES FOR
CONSIDERATION.
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